Amendments to the Claims:

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1, said solution further including comprising:

water;

corn hemicellulose in solution in said water;

a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the viscosity of said solution; and

a chloride salt, said chloride salt being present in amount of obseride salt effective to enhance the hygroscopicity of said solution.

3. (Currently amended) A composition according to blaim 1, further comprising: water;

com hemicellulose in solution in said water;

a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the viscosity of said solution; and

a crosslinking agent, said crosslinking agent being present in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of said composition.

4. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1, further comprising:

water;

corn hemicellulose in solution in said water;

a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the

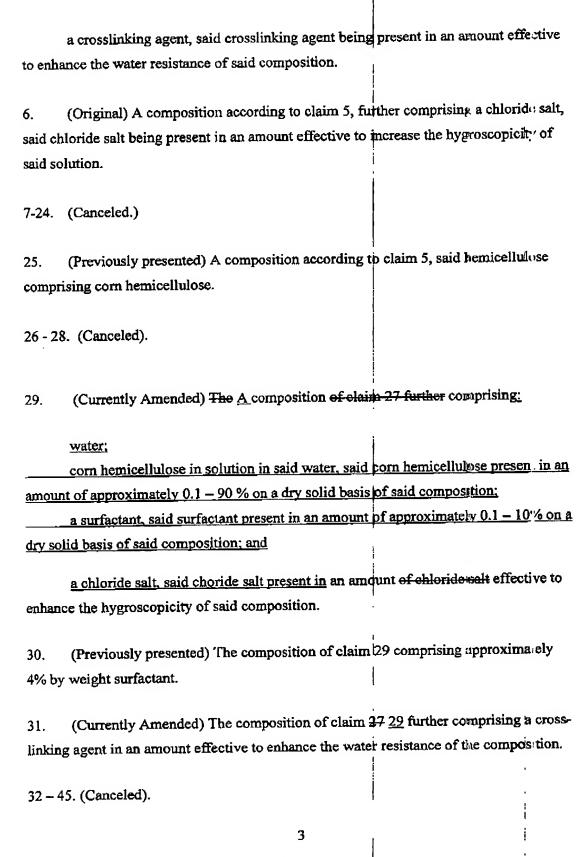
viscosity of said solution; and

a lignin compound.

Original) A composition comprising:

water:

a hemicellulose in solution in said water; and



46. (Currently Amended) The An aqueous solution of claim 45 further comprising:

approximately 0.1 - 90 % hemicellulose on a dry solid basis;

approximately 0.1 - 10% surfactant on a dry solid basis; and

a chloride salt, said chloride salt present in an amount of chloride salt effective to enhance the hygroscopicity of said solution.

- 47. (Currently Amended) The aqueous solution of claim 43 46 comprising approximately 4% by weight surfactant.
- 48. (Previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 46 further comprising a cross-linking agent in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of the solution.

49 - 59 (Canceled).